

HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC

HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1967

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

Public Health Inspector

HAROLD NIELD

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Incorporated Public Health Engineer

Also Public Health Inspector, Halstead Rural District Council

Deputy Public Health Inspector BRIAN A. J. TURNER
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

District Public Health Inspectors BERNARD J. DAVIES
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MICHAEL CRISP
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(to 17.11.67)

Clerical Assistant Mrs. EILEEN G. CLARKE
(to 10.3.67)

Mrs. HELEN BARNARD
(from 17.4.67)

Clerk Typist Miss VALERIE J. TREBLE

Pupil Public Health Inspector JOHN R. TANSWELL

Part-time Rodent Operator FRANK ANDREWS

Also Part-time Rodent Operator
Halstead Rural District Council
Braintree Urban District Council
Braintree Rural District Council &
Witham Urban District Council

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS JOYCE AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District during 1967.

Vital Statistics

The estimated population is 6,840 and there were 133 live births and one still birth which gives a birth rate of 20.6 compared with 17.2 for England and Wales.

The death rate of 12.5 for 1,000 of the population compared with 11.2 for England and Wales.

There was an increase in population during the year due to the new building in the town. The birth rate nationally fell for the second year, but this trend did not occur in Halstead. The population of Halstead is small and one hesitates to draw any deductions from the birth or death rates, since a small variation in births or deaths may affect the birth or death rate considerably.

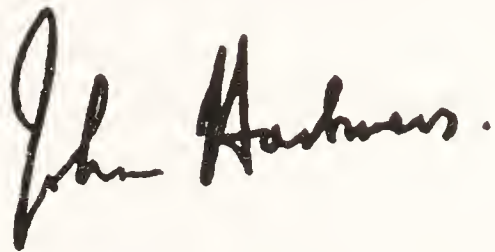
Infectious Diseases

Measles was the only infectious disease notified during the year. Measles occurs in large biennial epidemics, and while the fatality rate of two per 1,000 cases is low, the incidence of severe complications such as bronchitis, pneumonia and ear infections is high, and nervous disturbances have recently been shown to be more common than is generally appreciated. Each epidemic of measles places a heavy burden, not only on the children and their families, but on the general practitioners who have to deal with 800,000 cases in an epidemic year. Clinical trials have proved the efficacy and safety of the use of a vaccine on a large scale, and it will be introduced into the immunisation programme in 1968. It is, therefore, to be hoped that this will be the last occasion on which a substantial number of cases of measles will be notified.

Environmental Hygiene

This has been fully covered by Mr. Nield, but there is one point which should be emphasized. Nationally housing continues to be a major Public Health problem. Halstead has, by comparison with many other authorities, a reasonable standard of housing and yet there are still many houses lacking what are now considered to be basic amenities. For example, there are about 20% of houses in Halstead which do not have a hot water supply and a fixed bath.

The Council have virtually completed their programme of improving Council Houses to provide these amenities, and over the last few years over a hundred private houses have been improved with the aid of Improvement and Standard Grants. Progress may seem to be slow, but it is only by such progress, slow though it may be, that a cumulative effect on the housing conditions can be achieved.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John Harkness." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a period at the end.

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS JOYCE AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the environmental health services provided by your Public Health Inspectors during 1967. It is my 10th Report, and as customary consists of statistics required by statute with some brief comment.

The importance of the protective and preventive public health work accomplished by “routine” duties is sometimes overlooked, as also is the concept of “health” as being something much more than the mere absence of recognizable disease or infirmity. The Report records steady progress in the improvement of environmental conditions under the subject headings of Food Control and Hygiene, Water Supplies, Air Pollution, Housing, Places of Employment, Drainage and Sewerage, and Pests, etc., control.

Housing in its many aspects again had priority in the work of your Public Health Inspectors. The encouragement of improved housing standards through financial grants and loans, the prevention of deterioration in the condition of older houses through routine inspection and enforcement action concerning disrepair, and the reconstruction or demolition of condemned houses through slum clearance proposals, all help in making a major contribution to the maintenance and improvement of the District’s social as well as environmental health conditions. There is, however, an urgent need for a “new look” being applied to the present statutory housing standards of fitness, and the modernisation of these standards by overdue amending legislation. The number of condemned unfit houses which continued to be occupied was again excessively high (22), and it is essential to secure early re-housing of these families and the reconditioning or demolition of their houses. No progress was again made regarding the clearance of the Mount Pleasant Clearance Area reported in December 1960.

Food supplies control and food hygiene work generally formed an appreciable proportion of your Public Health Inspectors’ duties. The help and support of the general public in this work is invaluable, but unfortunately public apathy in accepting lower than desirable standards and practices of food hygiene does hinder progress. Only one complaint was received during the year regarding unfit food, food handlers’ unhygienic practices or uncleanly food premises, and this in my opinion is an indication of public apathy rather than an absence of reason for complaint. Your Public Health Inspectors continued to carry out 100% inspection of meat slaughtered in the District and official stamping of all fit carcasses. No ice cream etc., sampling was possible on account of inability to obtain supplies of refrigerant locally.

The supervision of places of employment by Public Health Inspectors under the provisions of the Factories Acts, Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, etc., has received increasing attention in recent years, and the statistical details in this Report show continued steady improvement in conditions and absence of serious contraventions.

Air pollution and noise abatement, two environmental conditions of major importance, were not the subject of any complaints locally, and pressure of other work did not permit the time and effort warranted to be devoted to these duties. The making of daily volumetric measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere through the Council's participation in the National Survey of Atmospheric Pollution continued, and the graphs on pages 15 and 16 indicate the amount of pollution and its variation according to wind direction.

Once again it is a pleasure to record my thanks to the staff for their willing and loyal assistance, and to colleagues in other Departments for their courteous and helpful co-operation throughout the year.

H. Lued

Health Inspector

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA

Area (in acres)	1,232
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	6,840
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1967) according to the Rate Books	2,720
Rateable Value	£224,653
Sum represented by a penny rate	£890

Live Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	129	57	72
Illegitimate.. .. .	4	3	1
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population			19.4
Birth rate (corrected by comparability factor of 1.06)			20.6
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			17.2

Still Births:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate.. .. .	1	0	1
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			7.0
Total births (live and still)			134

Infant and Maternal Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate births	—
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate births	—
Neo-natal mortality rate (first four weeks) per 1,000 live births	—
Early neo-natal mortality rate (first week) per 1,000 live births	—
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and first week) per 1,000 live and still births	7.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.0
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	0
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	—

Deaths:

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Deaths	102	50	52
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated population			14.9
Death rate (corrected by comparability factor of 0.84)			12.5
Death rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)			11.2

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1967

Disease	Male	Female
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	0	0
Tuberculosis (other)	0	0
Syphilitic disease	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0
Meningococcal infections	0	0
Acute poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	4
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	0
Diabetes	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	14
Coronary disease, angina	12	8
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0
Other heart disease	2	0
Other circulatory disease	3	6
Influenza	0	1
Pneumonia	0	4
Bronchitis	4	0
Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
Congenital malformation	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	4
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1
All other accidents	1	0
Suicide	0	0
Homicide and operations of war	0	0
Totals ..	50	52

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Disease	Total Cases notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Dysentery	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	0	0	0
Infectious Hepatitis	0	0	0
Measles	140	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Non-pulmonary)	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Totals ..	140	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases notified: 0

Transfer from other Districts: 0

Deaths from Tuberculosis: 0

1. FOOD

(a) Food, Food Hygiene and Food Premises Inspections

Details of food premises in the District, and of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors of the food therein, the hygiene of the processes, and the structure and cleanliness of the premises were:—

Type of Food Premises	No. in District	No. of Inspections	Having wash-hand basins with hot and cold water (Reg. 16)	Having sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)	Required to have sink with hot and cold water (Reg. 19)
Bakehouses	2	2	1	2	2
Bread and Confectioners	5	6	5	3	5
Bread Distribution Depots	1	3	1	1	1
Dairies and Milk Distributors	4	5	4	4	4
Egg Packing and Liquid Egg Preparation Premises	0	0	0	0	0
Fish Shops and Fish Fryers	4	30	4	3	4
Game Dealers' Premises (Licensed)	3	3	3	3	3
General Provisions Shops	19	48	10	8	19
Greengrocers	4	7	2	3	4
Ice Cream Premises (Registered)	24	24	7	0	0
Meat Products Premises (Registered)	4	5	4	4	4
Meat Shops	5	8	5	5	5
Poultry Processing Premises	0	1	0	0	0
Public Houses and Inns	30	42	7	29	28
Restaurants and Cafes	5	7	2	5	5
School Kitchens	5	9	4	5	5
Slaughterhouses	1	158	1	1	1
Street Vendors	1	53	1	1	1
Sweet Confectioners	5	11	2	4	5
Works Canteens	4	4	3	4	4
Miscellaneous	5	6	5	5	3
Totals	131	432	71	90	103

Food poisoning investigations	0
Informal notices served	15
Food premises improved	7
Food vehicles improved	1

No Clean Food Guilds were inaugurated or existed during the year.

Food traders were co-operative in securing the hygienic handling and storage of food. Progress in this matter is very dependent upon public opinion.

(b) Food Premises Improvements

Type of Food Premises	Structural Works	Decorations and Cleaning	Lighting and Ventilation	Cold Water Supply	Hot Water Supply	Washing Facilities		Food Storage Facilities	Refuse Storage Facilities	Drainage	Sanitary Accommodation	Name and Address Displayed	Wash Hand Notices Displayed	TOTALS
						Wash-hand Basins	Sinks							
Fish Shops & Fish Fryers	6	6	0	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	2	0	1	21
General Provisions Shops ..	2	2	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	11
Food Vehicles	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Totals ..	8	8	3	0	2	4	0	0	4	0	3	0	1	33

(c) Meat Inspection at Slaughterhouses

One slaughterhouse was licensed by the Council and used by a local butcher during the year. Slaughtering was carried out on three days per week. This regular slaughtering of animals at fixed times on fixed days was approved by the Council.

All animals slaughtered in the District were inspected in accordance with statutory requirements for fitness of the meat and offal for human consumption and, if passed, marked before leaving the slaughterhouse.

No specimens were submitted to the Animal Health Division of Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for examination.

Charges for meat inspection of 2/6 per bovine animal or horse, 9d. per calf or pig, and 6d. per sheep, lamb or goat remained in force.

Details of meat inspection carried out by Public Health Inspectors at the slaughterhouse are given in the following table:—

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	350	0	2	1,298	486	0
No. Inspected	350	0	2	1,298	486	0
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	21	0	0	2	11	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	6.0	0	0	0.15	2.26	0
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
(a) Whole carcasses condemned ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	0	0	0	0	1	0
(c) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	0	0	0	0	0.21	0
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
(a) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	2	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
(c) Generalised and totally con- demned	0	0	0	0	0	0

Licensed Slaughtermen: 7.

(d) Poultry Inspection

There were no Poultry Processing premises within the District.

(e) Milk and Dairies

The Council remained responsible for the registration of dairies other than dairy farms and of distributors, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the supervision of dairy farms. Dealers' licences were granted by the Essex County Council as Food and Drugs Authority, and permitted sales outside as well as inside the area of the licensing authority.

Bacteriological milk sampling, and also sampling for biological examination for tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus was carried out by the Essex County Council. No herds with brucella abortus infection were notified by the County Council.

Five inspections were made during the year of the four registered dairy premises.

(f) Liquid Egg Processing Premises

There were no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the District, and no samples of liquid egg were submitted for the prescribed test.

(g) Ice Cream

There were no premises in the District registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but 24 premises were registered for the sale only of pre-packed ice cream.

No samples of ice cream and ice lollies were taken for bacteriological examination on account of the inability to obtain supplies of refrigerant locally.

(h) General

Only one complaint was received during the year regarding unfit food, food handlers' unhygienic practices or uncleanly food premises, as follows:—

Food	Complaint
Corned Beef	Mould

A detailed investigation was carried out and appropriate informal action taken. There is, however, a well known marked reticence on the part of the public generally in making official complaints regarding these matters.

No prosecutions regarding food or food premises were instituted during the year.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority were responsible for the taking of samples for chemical analysis of food and drugs, milk, ice cream, etc.

(i) Unsound Food

It was not necessary to make any seizures of food. Vendors co-operated satisfactorily in reporting suspected food. The following commodities were voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	239 lbs.
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 lbs.
Pork	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42 lbs.
Tinned Foods	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	119 lbs.
Total ..								<u>404 lbs.</u>

This condemned food was stained and disposed of by burial in deep refuse pits.

No special examinations of whole stocks or consignments of food were necessary during the year.

2. WATER

The water supply of the area was generally satisfactory both in respect of quality and quantity. Restrictions on the number of houses to be built continued during the year on account of shortage of water in North-East Essex generally. Water from the Council's Undertaking was chlorinated but not treated by softening and had no plumbo-solvent action. As a routine procedure samples were submitted for bacteriological laboratory examination and included some of raw water direct from the borewell. Samples for full chemical analysis were also taken, and samples were also specially taken to ascertain the plumbo-solvency of water which had laid in lead piping. These samples gave satisfactory results.

The water consumption in the District from public piped mains supplies was estimated to be 44.6 gallons per head per day. This is based upon the Council's Water Engineer's calculations of:—

(a) Estimated population served	6,840
(b) Water supplied during year from:—	
(a) Council's borewell	110,183,000 gallons
(b) Halstead Rural District Council mains.. .. .	3,007,000 gallons
(c) Bulk supply from Council's mains to Halstead Rural District Council of ..	1,679,000 gallons

Work on a new 16in. diameter 300ft. borehole at Parsonage Street was completed and the bore put into service in November. Thereafter the old 9in. borehole was abandoned and the pump removed. A new high level water tower at Park-fields was completed and taken into service in December. The renewal of the water main in Factory Lane East (260 yards of 3in. diameter asbestos pipe) was completed in October, and work was proceeding on the renewal of the water main serving Trinity Square/Beridge Road (320 yards of 4in. diameter asbestos pipe) at the end of the year.

During the year the following work was carried out by Public Health Inspectors:—

(a) Inspections regarding water supplies	21
(b) Statutory Notices served re water supplies	0
(c) Informal Notices served re water supplies	0
(d) Samples of water submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination. Details of these are given in the following table	18

Source	No. of Samples	Wholesome	Below Standard
Public Water Mains	18	17	1
Private Water Mains	0	0	0
Public Wells, etc.	0	0	0
Private Wells, etc.	0	0	0
Totals ..	18	17	1

(e) Samples of water examined for Chlorine content: 15

A typical Chemical Analysis of the Public Mains Water Supply is given in the following table:—

Examination For	Parts per million	Examination For	Parts per million
Turbidity	Less than 3	Hardness: Carbonate (Temporary)	270
Colour	Nil	Non-Carbonate (Permanent)	25
Odour	Nil	Nitrate Nitrogen	0.3
pH	7.4		Less than 0.01
Free Carbon Dioxide	20	Nitrite Nitrogen	0.07
Electric Conductivity	700	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.00
Dissolved Solids Dried at 180°C.	470	Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.17
Chlorine present as Chloride	77	Oxygen Absorbed	Varies
Alkilinity as Calcium Carbonate	270	Residual Chlorine	0–0.22
Hardness: Total	295	Metals: Iron	0.45
		Zinc	Absent
		Copper, Lead, Manganese, etc.	Absent
		Fluorine	0.7

Public Swimming Baths

The Council’s public swimming baths were again used during May to October, each week from Thursday to Tuesday, being emptied Tuesday evenings and filled Wednesdays with water from the Council’s Undertaking. Hand chlorination was carried out and the use of an algaecide was continued with success, to secure improved clarity and purification, and to facilitate cleansing. As a routine procedure samples of the baths water during use were examined for estimation of residual chlorine content, and submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

During the open season 46 visits were made. Twenty-five samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and found to be suitable for bathing purposes, with the exception of two samples taken in May which failed to attain the prescribed high standard. Twenty-five samples were also taken for chemical analysis, and two samples taken in May and July failed to attain the high standard of clarity due partly to iron content, though the turbidity was not excessive. Twenty-five samples were also examined for residual chlorine content and all were satisfactory.

3. AIR POLLUTION

The Council continued to co-operate in the National Survey of Atmospheric Pollution and daily volumetric measurements of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere were taken and the results forwarded monthly to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

(a) New Furnace and Chimney Installations

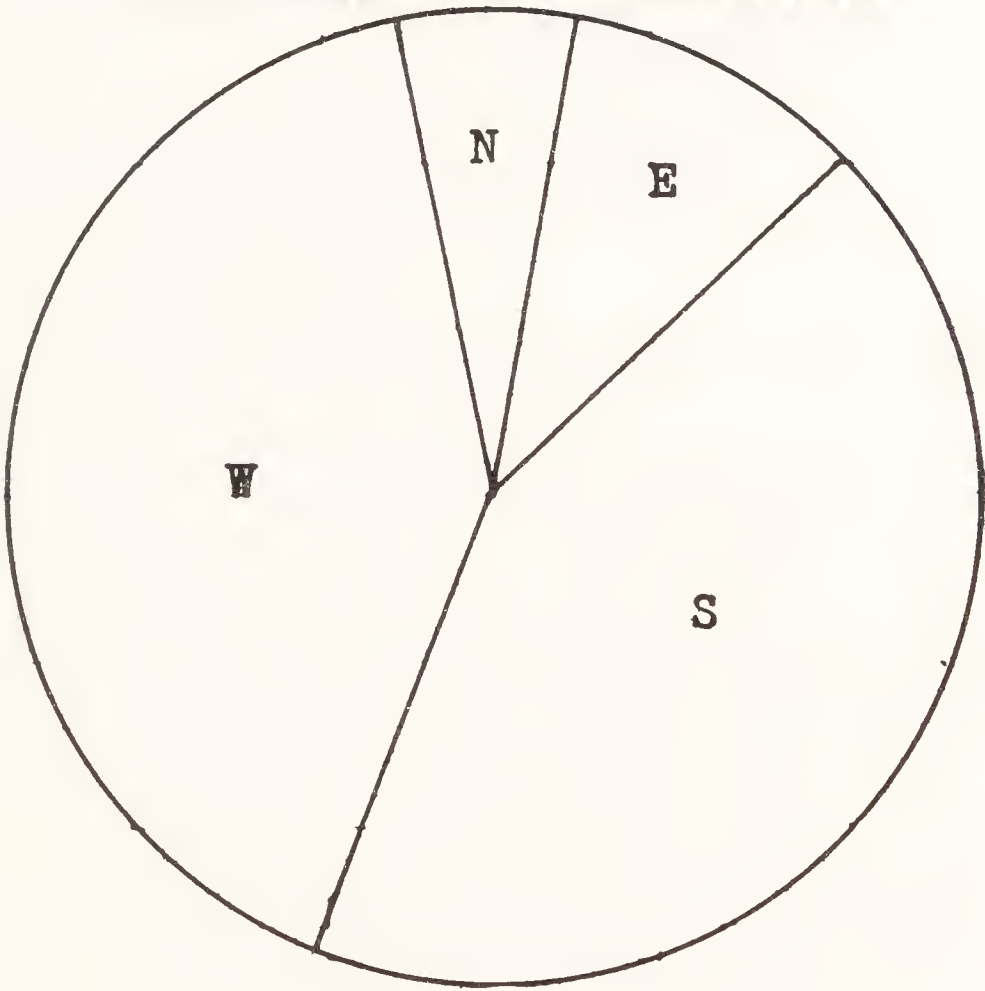
(1)	Notices submitted with plans and specifications of proposals to install furnaces and chimneys to which the Clean Air Act applies..	0
(2)	Approvals granted of such plans and specifications for the purposes of the Clean Air Act	0

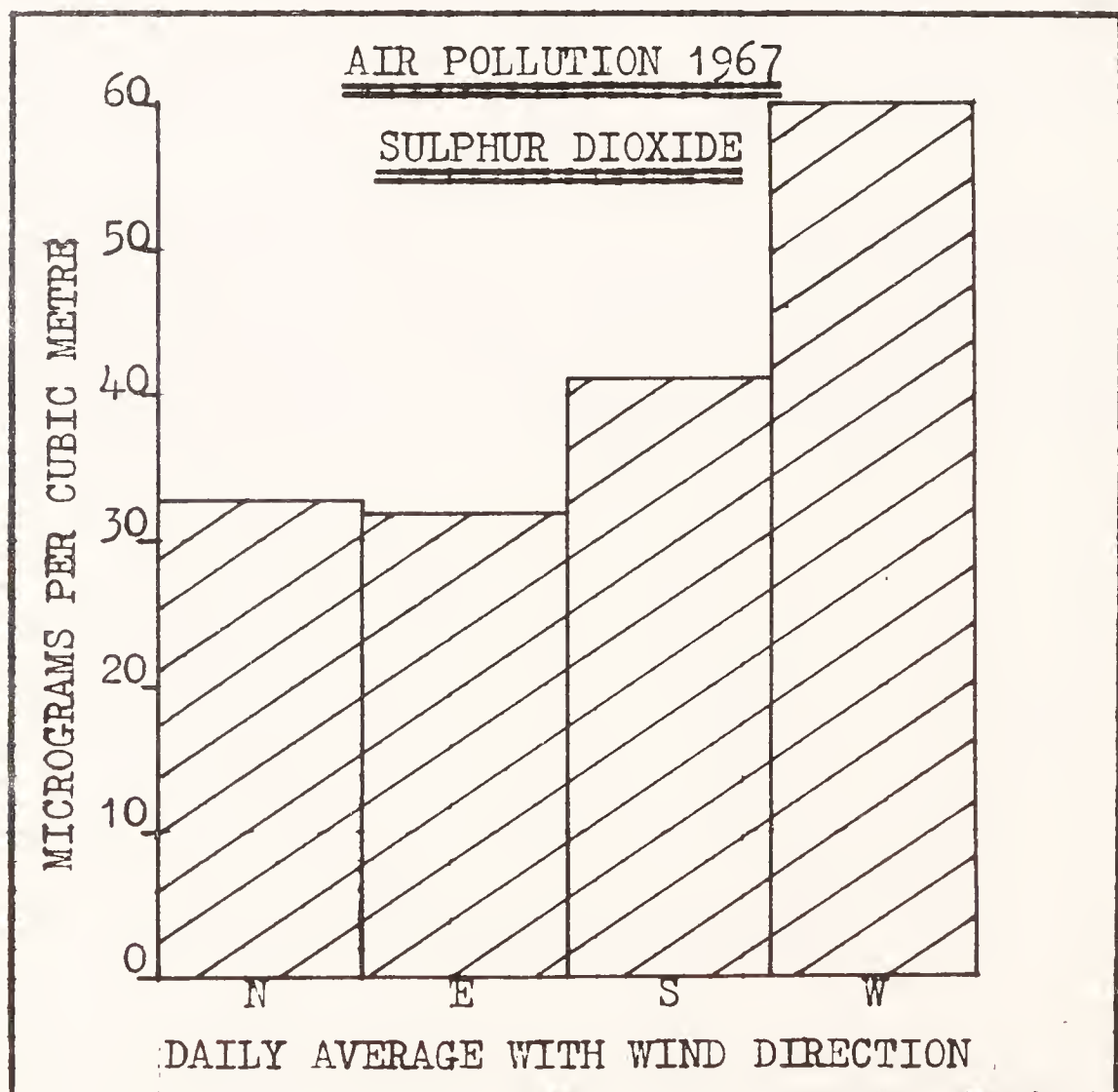
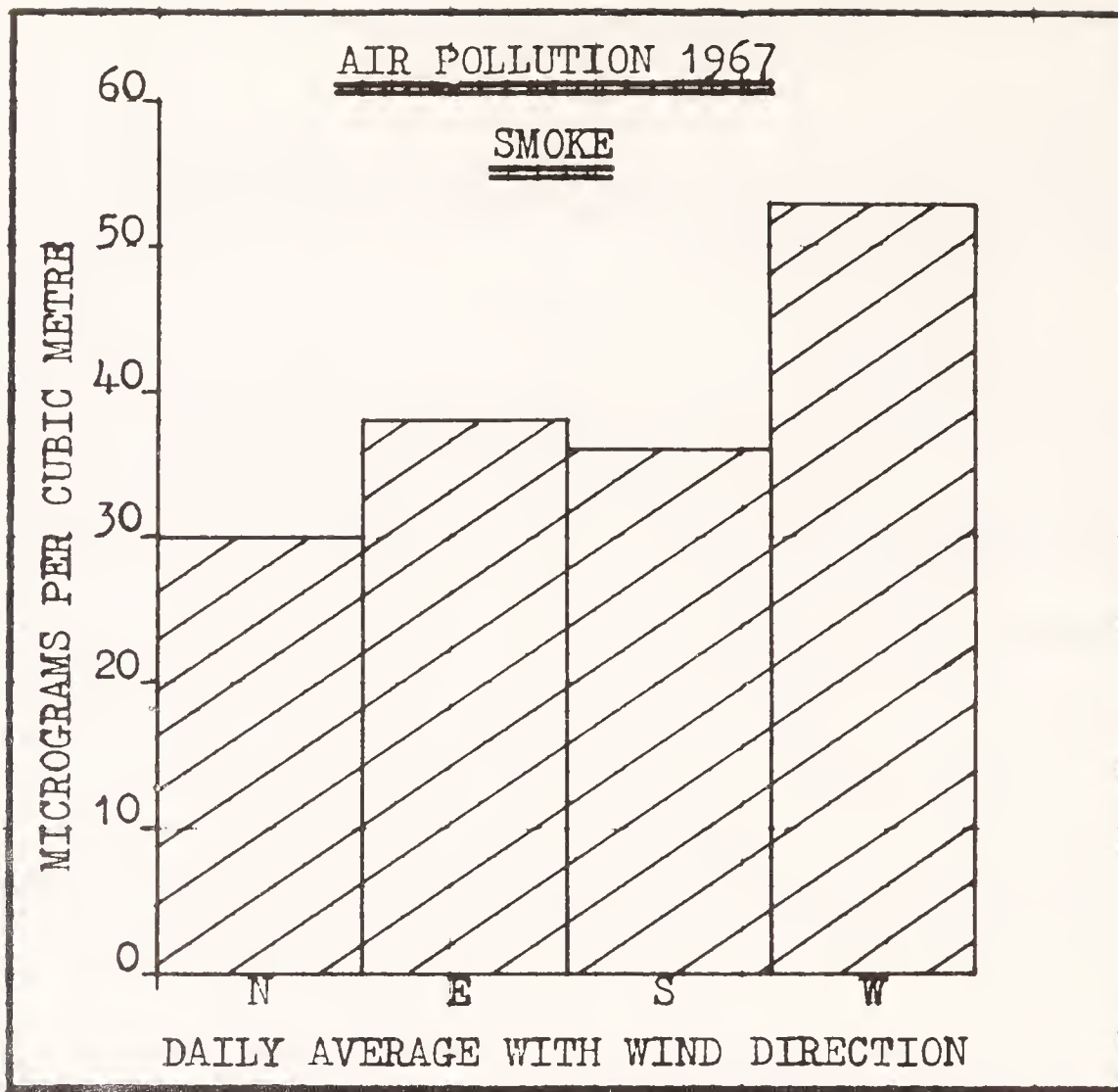
(b) Air Pollution Nuisances

(1)	Investigations	9
(2)	Confirmed	0
(3)	Abated	1

The following graphs show the variation in pollution according to wind direction.

WIND DIRECTION - OCCURRENCE





4. HOUSING

(a) Housing Inspections

(1)	Inspections regarding disrepair and sanitary defects	..	..	193
(2)	Houses fully surveyed and recorded	..	..	18
(3)	Inspections regarding reconditioning	..	..	14
(4)	Inspections regarding overcrowding	..	..	1
(5)	Inspections regarding Certificates of Disrepair	..	..	0
(6)	Inspections of moveable dwellings	..	..	6
(7)	Miscellaneous Housing inspections	..	..	67
(8)	Investigations of applications for Council house tenancies	..		0

(b) Housing Notices

(1)	Informal Notices served regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	8
(2)	Statutory Notices served under Housing Act regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	0
(3)	Statutory Notices served under Public Health Act regarding disrepair and defects	..	..	0

Property owners responded satisfactorily to informal procedure requesting the repair and improvement of dwelling houses.

(c) Unfit Houses

(1)	Houses Officially Reported Unfit to Council under Housing Act	..	6
(2)	(a) Undertakings accepted (i) to make fit for human habitation	..	0
	(ii) not to use for human habitation	..	0
	(b) Undertakings cancelled	..	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Undertakings (Dec. 1967)		
	(i) to make fit for human habitation	..	0
	(ii) not to use for human habitation	..	5
(3)	(a) Closing Orders made	..	0
	(b) Closing Orders determined	..	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Closing Orders (Dec. 1967)		12
(4)	(a) Demolition Orders made	..	7
	(b) Demolition Orders revoked	..	0
	(c) Accumulated total of outstanding Demolition Orders (Dec. 1967)	..	20
(5)	(a) Houses made subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders	..	0
	(b) Accumulated total of houses subject to outstanding Compulsory Purchase Orders (Dec. 1967)	..	8

(d) Slum Clearance Proposals

Details of the Council's ten years Slum Clearance Proposals are given in the following tables which show:

- (1) the approved proposals;
- (2) the year-by-year progress made, and
- (3) the position at 31st December, 1967.

(1)	
Years	Total houses in District Unfit for Human Habitation
1956-65	132
1966-75	103
	(Including 58 remaining from 1956-65 proposals)

(2)

Year	Houses Reported Unfit	Undertakings Accepted	Closing Orders Made	Demolition Orders Made	Houses Made Subject to Clearance Orders	Houses Made Subject to Compulsory Purchase Orders	Houses Made Fit	Houses Demolished
1956	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
1957	36	13	16	10	0	0	0	3
1958	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	11
1959	23	0	0	4	18	0	6	16
1960	46	0	5	2	0	0	2	7
1961	22	0	2	16	0	0	1	16
1962	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	7
1963	5	0	4	5	0	24	0	4
1964	2	0	1	9	0	0	0	15
1965	7	0	0	0	0	8	2	9
1966	8	0	1	9	0	0	0	22
1967	6	0	0	7	0	0	0	7
Totals	171	16	31	64	18	32	12	117

(3)

Unfit Houses Reported to Council and made subject to							Unfit Houses awaiting Report to Council
Undertakings	Closing Orders	Demolition Orders	Clearance Orders	Compulsory Purchase Orders	Action Pending		
					Deferred by Council	Other	
5	12	20	0	8	0	4	34
3	6	11	0	2	Total Houses Occupied 22		

(e) **Housing Improvements**

(1)	Houses reconditioned or repaired following informal action by Public Health Inspectors	9
(2)	Houses fully reconditioned to the "Twelve Points Standard"	10
(3)	Houses repaired following Statutory Housing Act Notices	0
(4)	Houses repaired following Statutory Public Health Act Notices	0
(5)	Houses reconditioned following Statutory Housing Act Orders	0
(6)	Houses demolished following Statutory Demolition Orders under Housing Act	7
(7)	Houses in Clearance Areas demolished	0

(f) **Housing Improvement Grants**

(1)	Applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants	2
(2)	Discretionary Improvement Grants approved	2
(3)	Schemes completed	0

Details regarding Discretionary Improvement Grants are given in the following table:—

Year	Applications			Completions	
	Received	Approved	Grant Approved	No.	Grant Paid
1949 to 1954	0	0	—	0	—
1955	14	7	£1,231 12 10	6	£1,036 12 4
1956	0	0	—	1	£195 0 6
1957	0	0	—	0	—
1958	0	0	—	0	—
1959	5	5	£689 0 0	2	£240 0 0
1960	9	9	£1,649 0 0	5	£759 0 0
1961	4	4	£832 0 0	6	£1,171 0 0
1962	3	3	£620 0 0	4	£649 0 0
1963	4	4	£852 0 0	5	£1,072 0 0
1964	2	2	£360 0 0	1	£175 0 0
1965	4	4	£825 0 0	2	£403 0 0
1966	1	1	£214 0 0	5	£1,039 0 0
1967	2	2	£346 0 0	0	—
Totals	48	41	£7,718 12 10	37	£6,739 12 10

(4)	Applications for Standard Improvement Grants	9
(5)	Standard Improvement Grants approved	9
(6)	Schemes completed	10

Details regarding Standard Improvement Grants are given in the following table:—

Year	Applications			Completions		
	Received	Approved	Maximum Grant Approved	No.	Amount of Standard Grant	
					Maximum Approved	Actual Paid
1959	5	5	£570	0	—	—
1960	11	11	£1,370	9	£1,050	£693 16 6
1961	10	10	£1,065	15	£1,765	£1,254 1 3
1962	10	10	£1,520	4	£610	£478 3 5
1963	6	6	£910	5	£675	£604 16 7
1964	8	8	£1,190	6	£880	£698 9 2
1965	12	12	£1,660	6	£910	£727 13 4
1966	7	7	£980	11	£1,560	£1,350 6 3
1967	9	9	£1,155	10	£1,230	£1,164 7 11
Totals	78	78	£10,420	66	£8,680	£6,971 14 5

(7) Houses subject to Grants were occupied as follows:—

Year	Discretionary Improvement Grants			Standard Improvement Grants		
	Owner	Tenant	Total	Owner	Tenant	Total
1949 to						
1954	0	0	0			
1955	3	4	7			
1956	0	0	0			
1957	0	0	0			
1958	0	0	0			
1959	3	2	5	4	1	5
1960	1	8	9	9	2	11
1961	4	0	4	9	1	10
1962	2	1	3	8	2	10
1963	1	3	4	4	2	6
1964	1	1	2	7	1	8
1965	0	4	4	6	6	12
1966	0	1	1	4	3	7
1967	0	2	2	4	5	9
Totals	15	26	41	55	23	78

(8) Loans made by Council for Repairing or Improving Houses .. 0

(g) Rent Act

(1) Applications for Certificates of Disrepair	..	..	..	..	0
(2) Decisions to issue Certificates	..	..	..	..	0
(3) Undertakings given by Landlords	..	..	..	..	0
(4) Certificates of Disrepair issued	..	..	..	..	0
(5) Applications for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	..	..	..	..	0
(6) Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	..	..	..	..	0
(7) Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	..	..	..	..	0

(h) Housing Overcrowding

(1) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1966	..	..	..	0
(2) Overcrowded houses found during 1967	..	..	..	0
(3) Overcrowded houses relieved during 1967	..	..	..	0
(4) Overcrowded houses existing December, 1967	..	..	..	0

(i) Caravan Sites

There was one caravan site licence in force in the District.

(j) Miscellaneous

During the year 37 houses were built by private enterprise, 22 houses, 36 flats and 2 two-bedroom bungalows were built by the Council. No existing Council houses were improved to present day standards of amenity by the provision of bathrooms, hot water supplies, etc.

No houses were sold by the Council to tenants.

Houses owned by the Council at the end of the year were:—

Pre-war. Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	342
Post-war. Houses and Bungalows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	463
(including 1 temporary prefabricated bungalow)								
Flats and flatlets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	198
(1 block of 24, 2 blocks of 16, 1 block of 14, 3 blocks of 12, 7 blocks of 8, 6 blocks of 6)								

There were no registered Common Lodging Houses nor unsatisfactory Houses in Multiple Occupation in the District.

5. PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

(a) Factories

(1) Inspections and Notices

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	18	0	0	0
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	39	5	2	0
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	0	0	0	0
Totals	57	5	2	0

(2) Defects found and Remedied

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	0	0	0	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ..	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	2	0	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	0	0	0	0	0
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ..	2	0	0	0	0

(3) Outworkers

Nature of Outwork	Section 133			Section 134			Inspections
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	2	0	0	0	0	0	2

(b) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

During the year only seven new premises were registered and all received a general inspection. Eight informal notices were served in respect of contraventions found and 15 informal notices were complied with.

No accidents were reported, and no applications were received for exemption from the provisions relating to room space for employees, temperature, sanitary conveniences and running water supply to washing facilities.

The following tables give details of:—

1. Premises registered and inspections.
2. Contraventions.
3. Improvements following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

TABLE 1 PREMISES REGISTERED AND INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Premises registered during year	Registered premises at end of year	Registered premises general inspection	Total visits of all kinds	Persons Employed			
					Male		Female	
					Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.	Under 18 yrs.	Over 18 yrs.
Offices	1	30	1	46	1	72	22	95
Retail Shops	5	64	5	101	4	86	40	145
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	1	3	1	8	0	15	0	4
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	4
Fuel storage depots	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	0
Totals ..	7	100	7	160	5	178	62	248

(c) **Miscellaneous**

Premises	No. in District	Inspections
Places of Entertainment ..	18	1
Schools	6	17

Certificates of Exemption granted (shops)	0
Certificates of Exemption (shops) in operation	0

6. WASTE MATTERS

(a) **Sewerage and Sewage Disposal**

Public Sewerage and Sewage Disposal was part of the duties of your Surveyor. The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the District were reasonably adequate, but it continued to become increasingly more apparent that enlargement would be required to deal with increasing sewage flows from the existing steady development and anticipated future growth of the town.

A scheme to extend the Langley Mill Sewage Disposal Works was commenced during the year and a scheme for a new length of surface water sewer from the Kings Road/Parsonage Street corner to the level crossing continued to await commencement of work at the end of the year.

No inspections were made by your Public Health Inspectors of public sewers following complaints.

(b) **Drainage**

1. Drainage investigations and advisory visits	10
2. Drainage inspections	23
3. Inspections of ditches, water courses, etc.	3
4. Drainage tests	0
5. Informal notices served	3
6. Statutory notices served	0

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors two drains were reconstructed.

(c) **Refuse Storage and Disposal**

Public cleansing was part of the duties of your Surveyor. The Council possessed one refuse collecting vehicle which removed house refuse at weekly intervals. Refuse was disposed of on a refuse dump at Sible Hedingham in the Halstead Rural District.

Eighteen inspections of the refuse dump and five inspections regarding refuse accumulations and storage were made. Two informal notices were served regarding refuse accumulation and one regarding provision of dustbins.

As a result of informal action by Public Health Inspectors four refuse accumulations were removed and five dustbins were provided.

7. PESTS

(a) Insect Pests

The District continued to be comparatively free from insect pest infestation. No premises were found with bed bug infestation. Five inspections were made by Public Health Inspectors regarding insect pests and 17 premises were disinfested in respect of ants, flies and wasps. No major insect pest infestation occurred at the Council's refuse dump, but it was dusted with insecticidal powder as a routine measure.

(b) Rodent Control

The Council operated a rat and mouse disinfestation service for occupiers of business premises on a basis of repayment of the cost of time, transport and materials, and for occupiers of domestic premises a free service at the discretion of the Public Health Inspector. Poison bait was also issued free to private householders.

There was no unduly high incidence of rat and mouse infestations in the District. The Council's public sewers, sewage disposal works, refuse dump, etc., were rat disinfested as a routine measure in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food requirements.

Details of Rodent Control work carried out by Public Health Inspectors and part-time Rodent Operator during the year were:—

No.	Properties other than Sewers	Type of Property	
		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in district	3,312	13
2a.	Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	76	0
2b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	70	0
	(ii) Mice	6	0
3a.	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	566	4
3b.	Number infested by (i) Rats	2	0
	(ii) Mice	0	0

Sewers

4.	No sewers were found to be infested by rats during the year.
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The Council's rodent control service treated 47 infestations, 42 rats and 5 mice at non-agricultural premises and one rat infestation at Council premises, sewage works, refuse dump, etc.

Four informal notices were served in respect of rat infestations at three non-agricultural premises and one agricultural premise. Eight non-agricultural premises were rat disinfested by private persons or contractors following informal action by Public Health Inspectors.

Four "Block Control" schemes were carried out, one in respect of seven houses, one in respect of four houses and two in respect of three houses each.

There was no evidence of Warfarin-resistant rats having spread to this District during the year.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

The following miscellaneous duties were also carried out by Public Health Inspectors during the year:—

(a) Noise Nuisances									
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(b) Effluvia Nuisances									
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(c) Keeping of Animals and Poultry Nuisances									
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
(2)	Confirmed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(d) Notifiable Diseases									
(1)	Investigations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Premises Disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(e) Animal Boarding Establishments									
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Premises Fully Surveyed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(3)	Other Inspections..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(f) Pet Shops									
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(g) Rag Flock Stores									
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(h) Waste Food Boiling Premises									
(1)	Licences granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(2)	Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
(i) Local Land Charges									
Reports to Clerk of Council on public health aspects of Official Searches in the Local Land Charges Register									
									264
(j) Plans									
Planning and Building Regulation plans examined regarding public health matters									
									3
It is important that plans should be examined by Public Health Inspectors to avoid works being carried out in accordance with Planning Permissions and Building Regulation Approvals which contravene statutory requirements administered through Public Health Inspectors, especially at food premises, houses, places of employment, shops, factories, etc.									
(k) Special Reports									
No special reports were submitted to the Council by the Public Health Inspector during the year.									
(l) Training of Public Health Workers									
Several students (Public Health workers, Teachers, etc.) were conducted on inspection visits of places of public health interest throughout the District.									

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